

**Testimony
Appropriations Committee
Chris Blake
11 Welcome St
Wallingford, CT 06492**

Good afternoon Senator Osten, Senator Formica, Representative Walker and members of the Appropriations Committee. I am Chris Blake, Vice Chair of the Council on Developmental Disabilities.[I am a person with an intellectual disability. A person like me has services grandfathered in . The first time I asked for services I had to wait for two years. The average person would never stand for that if they had to go through that. It makes people to jaded and traumatized. You expect that if you ask for something it isn't going to happen. When they do say "yes" you are shocked.

By cutting services you are affecting the future of future generations. It says graduates "don't bother graduating from high school because you have no future". People with disabilities when they come closer to adulthood don't hold that much optimism for their future. Right now people only have enough services for basic essentials. They barely get anything already. If you cut services they won't have anything at all.

They spend their time waiting for services and putting their lives on hold. By cutting behavioral services you are forcing family members or guardians to quit their jobs. In other words it cause you problems because it cuts tax payers for you. It is possible that accidents could happen when there are not enough services.

Putting Abuse investigation Division in DDS lets DDS choose what investigations happen and where to put the resources. AID should be separate. The old way gave three layers of protection. The new way doesn't . On paper it sounds good in theory. In practice it has been proven that it doesn't work.

Thank you for your time reading this.